

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6246

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15654

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, SW

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY

REF: STOCKHOLM 5433

1. A SIGNED REPORT IN PRAVDA OCTOBER 29 WHICH MAKES FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LARS WERNER SEEMINGLY INDICATES MOSCOW'S APPROVAL OF WERNER'S ACTIONS IN THE CRISIS IN THE SWEDISH PARTY REPORTED REFTEL. THE ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY YU. KUZNETSOV AND DATELINED GOTEBOG AND SODERTALJE, DESCRIBES A MEETING HELD ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE IN OCTOBER IN THE LATTER CITY BETWEEN "SWEDISH COMMUNISTS" AND THE "UNION OF COMMUNIST YOUTH." ARTICLE NOTES THAT ONE OF THE SPEAKERS AT THE MEETING WAS WERNER, WHO IT ALLEGES STRESSED THE TASKS FACING THE SWEDISH PARTY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENT CRISIS OF CAPITALISM. KUZNETSOV REPORTS FURTHER THAT AN ACTION MANIFESTO WAS ADOPTED DURING THE MEETING

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WHICH, HE SAYS, HIS OWN DISCUSSIONS WITH SWEDISH

WORKERS ESTABLISHED AS BEING APPROPRIATE TO CURRENT NEEDS.

2. THOUGH THE ARTICLE MAKES NO REFERENCE TO THE NORBERG GROUP OR THE DISPUTE SURROUNDING THAT GROUP, ITS PUBLICATION COMPLETE WITH REFERENCE TO WERNER IN A FAVORABLE CONTEXT IS PROBABLY, AS PRAVDA IS WONT TO PUT IT, "NOT ACCIDENTAL." FACT THAT DATE ON WHICH MEETING THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES TOOK PLACE IS NOT GIVEN MAY INDICATE THAT PRAVDA HAD TO GO BACK IN ITS FILES TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE VEHICLE TO CONVEY ITS BLESSING. IN ANY CASE, MOSCOW ON THE EVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE IS NOT ABOUT TO PICK UNNECESSARY ARGUMENTS WITH ANY OF ITS FRATERNAL PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND WE SUSPECT THAT THE SWEDISH PARTY COULD DO PRACTICALLY ANYTHING IT WANTED AT THIS STAGE AND STILL EXPECT NOTHING BUT SMILES (HOWEVER FORCED) FROM THE KREMLIN.
MATLOCK

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